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# Extension Service *Review*

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## What will farmers expect from us in 1947?

M. L. WILSON, Director, Cooperative Extension Service

Last month, in Chicago, Director Wilson talked to five important extension groups: The National 4-H Club Congress, the county 4-H Club leaders, the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, the National Home Demonstration Agents Association, and the Extension Section of the Land-Grant College Association. Some of the things he told these extension workers that he sees ahead for 1947 are summarized here briefly for REVIEW readers.

■ As we enter 1947, a more nearly normal peacetime year than any we've had since 1940, it is proper that we ask: "What kind of leadership and service will farmers and the public generally expect from the Cooperative Extension Service in the year ahead?"

In 1947 the Extension Service will be a third of a century old. Teamed up with research, it has become a major factor in helping farmers achieve phenomenal increases in production and in bettering rural standards of living. It has gone through 2 wars and a major depression. Figured in dollars and cents spent for specialists and leaders and administration on the land-grant college campuses and in the county agricultural, homemaking, and 4-H programs, extension work in 1947 will be a 55- to 60-million-dollar business. Yet the professional working organization will probably not exceed 12,000, because extension work requires a well-trained personnel.

### Increasing Demands

The demand for extension work has never been as great as now. Everywhere we are called upon to aid in the greater cultural development of rural communities, a development which should logically follow the increase in productive ability made possible by the application of science to judicious

use of the land and our natural resources. Recent acts of Congress, such as the Bankhead-Flannagan Act and the Research and Marketing Act of 1946, place new responsibilities on us. They include special services such as individual farm and home planning, considerably more emphasis on 4-H Club activities, and stream-

lining of market information and marketing education.

### Precise Scientific Services

As farming practices have changed, we find that people have also changed. In 1947 we shall not be dealing with the same kind of farm people as those of 30 years ago. There has been a great growth in the practical comprehension of science in agriculture. Many of the successful farmers of today are the 4-H Club members of a decade or two ago. They have learned from their parents to cooperate with their county agent. Many have the background of vocational agricultural class work in high school. Quite a few have had advanced academic training at their land-grant colleges.

All this makes for a keener appreciation of the fact that human organization is necessary if mankind is to be benefited by constantly unfolding

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scientific knowledge and technical progress. Today farm people generally look for leadership along these lines to their county agricultural and home demonstration agents. They want a precise scientific service that will help them keep abreast of things. They know that their county extension office is staffed by agents in residence of the most complete scientific service in the world. That service is a partnership in which the State agricultural college, their State agricultural experiment stations, and the United States Department of Agriculture join to make practical and scientific farm and homemaking information available to the public.

#### Patterns for Leadership

It is to the Extension Service that farm people look for a single, tied-together bundle of information on practical and scientific farming; about new scientific developments; and about all-round adjustments necessary to farm and live successfully within the pattern of an ever-changing picture. As the Extension Service is a partnership, how is each member of the partnership meeting the newer demands of farmers? Congress has provided its answer in the Bankhead-Flannagan Act of 1945 and the Research and Marketing Act of 1946. The land-grant colleges have answered many of the questions in the report on agricultural policy prepared by the committee of which Noble Clark, associate director of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station, is chairman. The United States Department of Agriculture Extension Service has given its answer in the Committee on the Scope of Extension's Educational Responsibility, called, for short, the Kepner report. The Land-Grant College Association has joined with the United States Department of Agriculture in setting up a joint committee which is now studying cooperative extension policies and programs in view of present-day needs. State college and United States Department of Agriculture extension leaders in 4-H Club work are cooperating closely with their national committees toward seeking a goal of 3,500,000 4-H Club members in 1950.

Judged by the newer public demands for extension services, extension work offers considerable oppor-

tunities for a career service to young people with practical farm and rural background. Such a career, however, will require more and more of a broad basic training. Courses giving this broader basic training are now offered at several outstanding land-grant colleges. Finding a career in extension work will also require intensive professional study and advanced training; inservice training; and development of the reading habit in books and journals dealing with professional and educational matters.

In addition to the practical experience every successful county agent gains in getting along with people, there will be numerous new informational methods with which every agent should familiarize himself. In my opinion it will not be long, for instance, before every county agent will need to have a radio microphone right in his office. More teaching will have to be done through use of radio, the printed page, and educational film.

Practical demonstrations will continue to be important in extension work, but where modern devices like simple poultry culling leaflets or facsimile market broadcasts can give farmers the same information they might get by traveling to a meeting 10 miles away, extension agents will be asked by the farmers they serve to streamline their service.

#### Future Bright for Home Economics

Home economics extension work, although organically a part of cooperative extension work, has too frequently been crowded out by the more pressing problems of farm communities. Now that farming has seen a relatively prosperous period, and with a new type of thinking among farm families, home demonstration extension work is coming into its own. A number of States have launched individual farm and home planning programs in which the farm home and home standards of living are taken into account in planning the farm operation.

Thirty years ago home economics extension work concentrated its major efforts on such things as better cooking, house furnishing, and a few additional projects in homemaking. Since then, however, the field of home economics extension work has grown tremendously. At many of the col-

leges home economics has become one of the most important courses for women. Subject matter now has broadened to where it includes many fields, such as scientific nutrition; health education; the study of fabrics, textiles, and designs; handicrafts; practical psychology as applied to everyday living; the influence of religious thought on well-balanced living; and the study of culture. Home economics has truly become the science of family living. As the home demonstration partner in a properly organized office of county extension work, the home agent has many contributions to make.

#### Local Implementation

What do farmers and the rural public expect from us in 1947? The imaginative and devoted career extension agent in residence won't have trouble finding the answer locally. And his associates in the partnership—including Congress, United States Department of Agriculture, and the land-grant colleges—have provided ample authority, guidance, and leadership to serve as a basis for going ahead.

### 4-H Club develops leadership

Here's a story from Sadie Gilmore, assistant home demonstration agent for Craighead County, Ark. It shows how the Philadelphia 4-H Club is developing leaders.

Mary Margaret Copeland, president of the club, is responsible for seeing that a demonstration is worked up and assigned to people before each meeting. She comes into the county extension office in Jonesboro to get bulletins and to talk to the extension agents. The demonstrations are always her own ideas, but the agents help work them out. Some of the demonstrations she has planned have been on table service, cottage cheese sandwiches, toast sticks, preparing a cold frame and hot bed for tomatoes, rag doll seed tester, and iris planting to beautify mail boxes.

Mrs. Kelly Copeland and Mrs. Harry Duke, two of the local leaders, meet with Mary Margaret and other club officers to work up the demonstrations and hand out the parts at the next club meeting.

# No blue-ribbon blues for Vermont judges

VIRGINIA MURRY, Assistant Extension Editor, Vermont

■ "The dress that you didn't look a bit better than mine!"

Such comment seems to be the inevitable post mortem of the State dress revue, or judging, at the county fair or county round-up.

The objective of any contest is not the blue ribbon, or the cup, or the trip to National Club Congress. It is to inspire more and better work among all 4-H members. So the judging shouldn't be simply a picking of winners or a grading of "excellent," "good," and "fair."

4-H workers in Vermont believe that the only way the club members can get full benefit from the 4-H contests is by receiving from the judges some kind of constructive criticism which is broken down on a point basis.

"But we don't have time," say the judges.

It is true that there is usually too little time for judging accurately and writing out constructive criticism, even when the entries are few. Vermont is attempting to work out a system which won't take too much time and yet will give an opportunity for this criticism—a help not only to the entrants and the judges but to the leaders and the general public as well.

Vermont's system is the use of judging cards, on which are listed the points to be scored. The cards were printed and used for the first time last year. They were a small, handy size, listing such points as appearance, jar fill, liquid line, workmanship, color, and quality for canned fruits, vegetables, and meats. They had a column headed "Should be improved" for checking after each point. The cards proved a decided help, but there were limitations. Plans are under way for revising them next year, and perhaps this revision will continue each year until they are nearly perfect.

Some of the judges who have worked both with and without the cards were consulted as to how they liked them. All the judges agreed that they did a better job of judging

when they used the cards, principally, they said, because the cards served as a check on themselves. With the card, the judge does not take the chance of overlooking some of the points in some of the exhibits.

The judges were divided in their opinions on improving the cards. But practically all of them want a chance to check "satisfactory" in addition to the column, "should be improved." Some like the idea of three columns, rating the different points "excellent," "good," and "fair." This would not only preclude the possibility of overlooking some points but would also give opportunity for a quick sizing-up and awarding of the ribbon. Of course, care would have to be taken that some points don't far outweigh others in importance.

## Score Provides for Comments

Most of the judges like the idea of a place on the cards for written commentary as well as a checking of points. For the county fair and similar shows where there are many entries, the written comment would be only a word or two after some of the points. But in the State dress revue, where the outcome is of particular importance to every contestant and a different kind of score card is used, a detailed written commentary is desirable.

"This is no job to do hurriedly," Edna Sommerfeld, extension clothing specialist, says. "The point system isn't sufficient for judging the State dress revue. Here the judge should spend at least 10 minutes talking with each girl about her entry and should give a written commentary rather than a point-system criticism. The card could be used by the judge as a check on herself."

Pauline Rowe, assistant State club leader, says that although the card was designed primarily as a help to the judge, it plays its most valuable role in the education for the club member. Most of the judges feel that all 4-H members should know why

decisions were made one way or the other. Even before the card system the judges often wrote comments on the entry tags.

As for what the 4-H'ers think of the card system, this comes from Marie Hunter, of Essex Junction, Vt., who has had both canning and clothing projects: "I like these pink judging cards very much because they tell what is wrong with your exhibits, and you can try to correct your mistakes to make the best better." Her sister, Ila, agrees with this statement because "We can correct our mistakes next year."

## Score Card Improves Entries

Miss Rowe feels that the score-card system not only should improve the fair exhibits next year but says it has already shown results in improved entries in the State dress revue. Some of the judges, baffled by the number of entries at the fair, feel there should be some elimination contest before the fair. "It is true," says Miss Rowe, "that some entries are hardly qualified to be placed on exhibit. We hope the card system will improve the quality of the exhibits that come into competition."

It goes without saying that the system is a help to the club leaders, many of whom were left quite in the dark as to the why of the decisions before the cards were used. But another benefit which resulted—although not an original objective—was the general education of the public about the exhibits. Many of the 4-H workers reported overhearing the comments as the public visited the exhibits: "I don't see why this jar of peaches didn't get the blue ribbon if that one did. These peaches are much firmer, and the jar looks better."

When the card is left attached to the jar with the red ribbon, the public can see for itself that, although the fruit was firm and attractive, it wasn't ripe enough for canning—that, although the liquid is clear and free from sediment, there isn't enough liquid to cover the peaches.

Also, a large reproduction of the score card was used over the exhibit, with the explanation, "This exhibit was judged on these points." This, too, enlightened the public.



# Potato cooperative increases services

On a recent visit to her native State, Dorothy L. Bigelow, associate editor, attended the annual meeting of Maine Potato Growers, Inc., on the invitation of G. E. Lord, Maine assistant extension director. Finding the achievements of this successful cooperative so interesting and helpful to extension workers there, she has collected the facts about the development of this organization for readers of the REVIEW.

■ Maine Potato Growers Inc.—the largest potato cooperative in the United States—is proud of its 16 million dollar volume of business done last year.

Organized in 1932 with a membership of 77, the association has grown gradually to approximately 1,300 members in 1946. Last year, Maine Potato Growers, Inc. shipped more than 10,000 cars of potatoes, which included 8,000 cars of tablestock and 2,000 cars of certified seed.

Just prior to the development of this cooperative, during the period 1929 to 1931, net returns to Aroostook County potato growers were unsatisfactory and really impaired the economy of the entire county. It was obvious that something needed to be done to help these farmers.

Although it was recognized that the general level of prices and consumers' incomes had much influence on the returns to farmers, many people believed that farmers could accomplish much by themselves to improve the marketing of their product.

Organizations and government agencies, including the Extension Service and the Federal Farm Board, predecessor of the Farm Credit Administration, studying the problem believed that an important part of the difficulty was due to the lack of bargaining power by the dealers selling on the terminal markets, and that a cooperative would materially assist the potato growers in the county. However, there were differences of opinion in regard to the type of cooperative, its method of operation, and the proper goal for such an organization. Moreover, uncertainties in the minds of the growers made them hesitate to form such a cooperative. Unfavorable prejudices had been built

up because their first cooperative venture, 1922 to 1926, which was unsuccessful, had left a bad taste in the mouths of many people.

Extension played an important part in the development of the Maine Potato Growers, Inc.. Dean Arthur L. Deering, extension director of Maine, sat in on the first organization meetings and aided in the development of the cooperative. During the first few years of its operation, the organization was carefully supervised and assisted by Director Deering; Donald Reed and Ray Atherton, extension marketing specialists; and County Agent Verne C. Beverly. As the cooperative has grown the management has regularly sought the advice of the Extension Service.

During the first few years of its operation the cooperative was confronted with the confusing problem of whether or not a member should be required to deliver 100 percent of his crop to the association. Growers were required to sign such a contract the first 4 years, but the M. P. G. did not attempt enforcement except by canceling the membership of growers who did not live up to the terms of the contract. Only the most flagrant violators had their memberships canceled. However, many potato growers refused to become members because they did not want to be obliged to deliver their tonnage to any individual or concern without some definite assurance of price or performance.

Then in 1938 a 50-percent contract was tried, with the result that many farmers delivered more than 50 percent and some marketed their entire crop through M. P. G. This led to the eventual practice of not requiring any contract from the members.

Another problem in the early years was that of obtaining adequate capital in the form of membership investment. Potato farmers had put their money into various organizations, some cooperative and some commercial, which were not success-

Maine potato growers like to do their own grading and packing. Milton Smith, vice president (second from left), works with his men at the grading rack in his potato house.





ful. They felt that if they invested in anything similar to the local cooperative, they were merely making a gift or an additional sales expense.

To help finance its transactions the Maine Potato Growers, Inc. borrows from the Bank for Cooperatives, Springfield, Mass.

This cooperative tried out several methods of selling the products of their members in the terminal markets. Finally, in 1939, the association became a member of and signed a contract for terminal sales with the American National Cooperative Exchange, a Nation-wide cooperative sales agency handling fresh fruits and vegetables. Tied in with this contract with the American National Cooperative Exchange was a program with the American Fruit Growers, Inc., whereby the association could use the Blue Goose brand and obtain the benefits of advertising and dealer service work being carried on by the American Fruit Growers, Inc. This affiliation has proved successful in providing the local association with Nation-wide representation. The American National Cooperative Exchange has in all of the major terminal markets salaried sales offices, and in smaller markets has brokerage representation that is supervised by

competent sales personnel. In this way, the local cooperative was able to obtain benefits of a sales service that could not be rendered by any organization handling only one commodity.

Then in 1942, after making a study, the planning committee recommended a multiple-service organization. The cooperative revised its by-laws to eliminate the contract feature which called for a specific delivery of potatoes. It broadened its membership base by providing marketing service for growers with less than carload lots, and potatoes were bought in truckload lots from members. Membership grew, and thus M. P. G. increased its revenue for working capital.

Believing that there would be sharp competition for the consumer's dollar in the peace years, the Maine Potato Growers, Inc. decided to build a marketing program to stimulate and maintain consumer preference for specific brands. Before making drastic changes in its marketing policies they decided to get more facts on the merchandising of potatoes. With the cooperation of the American National Cooperative Exchange and the American Fruit Growers they are carrying out a potato merchandising experiment in several selected markets.

They started the program in 1944-45 in Worcester County, Mass., and expanded it to include Springfield, Mass., and Albany, N. Y., and a number of smaller cities near these major centers.

In this experiment the American Fruit Growers furnishes dealer service and advertising; the growers assure the stores of a consistent volume of well-graded U. S. No. 1 Size A potatoes in branded Blue Goose pecks; and sales representatives of the American Cooperative Exchange assist in developing trade cooperation. The promotion work caused an increase of 183 percent in the sale of Blue Goose potatoes in these markets from 1943-44 to 1945-46.

#### Additional Services for Efficiency

Not only does this cooperative market potatoes, but it provides additional service to growers. It has a farm supply department which furnishes fertilizer, spray material, grass and field seeds, and various other supplies needed in the production of potato crops. It bought a bag factory in 1945 which it operates so as to furnish bags to members. It has its foundation seed program, including roguing service to growers and seed tests made in Florida during the winter months. It has farm machinery to sell to members and is now erecting a modern building for farm machinery. It has 21 warehouses for storing and shipping potatoes.

Maine Potato Growers, Inc., keeps its members informed through its M. P. G. News, J. A. McCargar getting out this monthly periodical as well as promoting good membership relations.

When commenting on the Maine Potato Growers, Inc. C. H. Merchant, head of agricultural economics and farm management department of the University of Maine, said "Two things stand out in the successful operation of the Maine Potato Growers. First, they have combined the brains and venturesomeness of young men, such as Harold Bryant, their general manager; and Bryce Jordan, manager of the seed department, with the experience of older men who are the directors." The 15 directors are all farmers who have had years of experience in growing and marketing potatoes. The president, Frank W. Hussey, and Milton E. Smith, vice president, both

Dealer-service men made up this display of Maine potatoes in a prominent location in a store in Schenectady during the experiment.





of Presque Isle, have been with the cooperative ever since it started and have contributed a tremendous amount of time and energy to the efficient operation of the Maine Potato Growers, Inc.

Members were told at their annual meeting that their officers and board of directors were planning to expand

still more this cooperative, which is now worth half a million dollars and which did a 16-million-dollar business during the past year.

Arroostook farmers are looking with confidence to their cooperative to help them market their 1946 bumper crop of potatoes—both certified seed and tablestock.

urged Director Paul Miller, of Minnesota, chairman of the subcommittee on rural youth, to move toward a defining of the organization and area involved and to recommend such measures as his subcommittee felt would give the movement shape and impetus in 1947.

The first step, evidently, was to get a clear picture of just what is being done now in this field of service to rural young people. To do this, a questionnaire was worked out and sent by Director Miller to the State extension directors of the several States and Territories. This questionnaire was a three-page document asking about 20 questions. Fifty questionnaires were mailed out, and 50 were returned—a 100-percent return. These 50 replies furnished a sound basis for discussion by the members of the subcommittee on rural youth who met for the purpose October 3 to 5.

The pattern of extension work with rural young people, 20 to 26 years of age, as it emerges shows a variety in methods and forms of organization; but there is a strong unanimity on the importance of these young people in their respective communities and of the need for extension assistance in meeting their specific requirements.

The present extent of the activity is surprising, with some work going on in organized groups either on a county

## Tomorrow is here

REUBEN BRIGHAM, Assistant Director, Federal Extension Service

■ Tomorrow—the postwar tomorrow that we have talked so much about—is here! And, in this tomorrow are some 4 million rural young men and young women, 20 to 26 years of age, who are seeking to establish themselves in the farm life of their home communities. They are the spearhead, the hope, the leadership of the new era of the next 50 years on which we have just entered. In what ways as extension workers are we planning to enlist their initiative, their drive, and their enthusiasm in shaping the rural communities of tomorrow that is already here? Specifically, what are we doing about this opportunity in 1947? What is our answer?

As an editor, I used to say that if you want to know whether your piece is good, lay it down until it gets cold and then see how it reads. I have done some such thing with my extension work. About a year ago I laid down my work. Illness kept me at home. The affairs, enterprises, projects got along very well without me. Now taking up my work again I find a shifting of values. My new perspective shows that some things are more vital than I had thought and that some other things had best be forgotten.

I believe that a more effective program with rural young people is now tremendously vital and urgent. This activity seems to have grown in its possibilities and its importance to the future of cooperative extension work. When I began to give my attention to the service we might render rural young people, I found that according to the 1940 census there were approximately 4 million farm young people in the United States between 18 and 26 years of age, and that of

these only about 12 percent belonged to any organized group. These are the young people who today are establishing homes, setting up farm businesses, and becoming imbued with ideas of community cooperation and of constructive leadership. Who is helping them get started in their life work? Who is advising them on the momentous decisions they have to make as they choose an occupation and build a home? What have we to offer these young people to help them find for themselves a place as men and women citizens of a great democracy?

The first meeting I attended when I returned to work after my illness was the July meeting of the National Committee on Extension Organization and Policy when this matter of servicing rural young people was renewed. The committee members





or community basis in 35 States. Some of these States have rural young people's organizations in practically all counties. These are mixed groups of young people, mostly unmarried. In 20 States, groups of young married people were reported, and without exception these States were enthusiastic about this type of organization. Altogether there are 1,455 organized groups of rural young people of this age range with an enrollment of more than 58,000. This is a greater volume than some of us had thought but falls far short of those among the 4 million who need advice and help in getting started in their life work.

Looking ahead, extension people now working with these groups of rural young folks feel that a uniform name would be desirable but do not agree at all on what that name should be. These groups are now most commonly known as Rural Youth, Older Youth, or Older Rural Youth. Other names now in use are Junior Extension Clubs, Young Extension Cooperators, or Organized Rural Youth. Other names, such as Rural 20's, have been suggested. Director Miller's committee has suggested that the young folks themselves conduct polls on this choice of designation for their groups.

#### Advisory Committees Helpful

The 34 States which now have staff advisory committees on Rural Youth report that they have been of definite help in forwarding this program. Twelve States also have advisory committees of young people to help plan and develop services and programs. To expedite the program, 9 States have 1 or more full-time workers assigned to work with these rural young people; and 19 additional States have workers assigned part-time to this work. As a rule, these workers are associated with the State 4-H staff.

What are the results of the work now being done? Are these young members finding places of responsibility in community organizations more rapidly as a result of such groups? This question brought an unqualified "Yes." Massachusetts cites the examples of several Farm Bureau directors and the president of the county poultry association; Indiana tells of a member of a rural youth group who gave time for several years

to serving as recreation leader for his community, county, and northern half of the State; Alabama finds a large percentage of the officers of farm organizations, both men and women, were formerly youth leaders. Colorado reports that the chairmen of the livestock and poultry committees in one county are doing a fine piece of work, and in another county the young people are leading the way in such things as weed control, dairying, swine production, better schools, and roads. Tennessee has the president of a county farm bureau and the directors of several cooperatives from its rural-youth groups. Oregon reports that the oldest of these groups has been operating more than 14 years. At a recent meeting of the

county agricultural planning committee and its six subcommittees, every committee chairman and nearly all of the other most active participants were former members of this group.

The subcommittee under Director Miller developed recommendations based on the information obtained from the questionnaire for future activity in this field. These recommendations were presented to the National Committee on Extension Organization and Policy at the meeting of the Land-Grant College Association last month. Director Miller has promised to write an article for the REVIEW on these recommendations which we hope to publish in our next issue of the REVIEW. Tomorrow is here!

## Growing up in Bethel, N. C.

■ Bethel, N. C., is a small town of only about 2,000, but these people had their problems; mothers worried about their children, and the young folks insisted on fun where they could find it, just as they do in many towns. But in Bethel a group of rural women decided to try out a family-life program to make the town a better place in which to bring up their families, reports Miss Verona Lee Joyner, home demonstration agent.

The first meeting, held in January 1945, brought together representatives of the home demonstration club, Rotary Club, Baptist, Methodist, and Holiness Churches, PTA, the consolidated high school, the local theaters, the library, and the Boy and Girl Scouts. This group formed a community council to plan a program to promote family life in the community and a recreation program for the young folks.

The things that were needed most, according to the discussion at this first meeting, were a community recreation center; some help in planning recreation for the family in the home; better pictures in the movie theaters or those that are more suitable for the young people; some books in the library which described new and interesting games; a place and an opportunity for the young people to discuss their own problems and for par-

ents to thrash out their problems in feeding and training their children; and, last but not least, a teen-age recreation center.

These were definite goals, and when a recreation leader training school was held in February the program was off to a good start. About 20 older boys and girls and 15 adults learned how to lead games and group recreational stunts. Soon a teen-age club was organized and began to meet every week. Sometimes it was all recreation, but often they held a serious discussion meeting on such topics as "What it takes to be a good family member" or "the ethics of dating."

The churches for their part appointed junior ushers, organized junior choirs and a special monthly service which was given over to the young people to manage, with the minister's assistance.

The home demonstration club and PTA sponsored three discussion meetings to help strengthen family life in the community. A teen-age club room was located in the elementary school building. The citizens of Bethel willingly gave furniture and other equipment and took a keen interest and pride in making the clubroom the most attractive place in town. Bethel is fast becoming a good place in which to rear children, and many more plans are being made.

# *We Study Our Job*

## Summer schools for extension workers

CANNON C. HEARNE, Extension Educationist, Federal Extension Service

■ The largest asset which the Extension Service has is its staff of workers. The kind, quality, and amount of service which it can render to rural America depends on the quality of this personnel. As the level of ability of the staff goes up so will the value of the service to rural people go up. Money and time spent in training this staff to meet the constantly changing situations confronting rural life and the agricultural industry are money and time well spent. Can the Extension Service afford, therefore, not to take advantage of every existing opportunity and not to take every possible step toward furnishing opportunity for the most important factor in its organization—for the staff to get necessary training?

Because extension education is a fairly new field in education much of the knowledge of how to do extension work had to be learned through the hard way of experience. The service is old enough now that a body of information is available to guide work in the future. Studies have been made and are continuing to be made of the methods, administration, and supervision used in extension work. The fields of related subjects such as sociology, evaluation, psychology, economics, education have a vast amount of information ready to be used by extension workers—if time is taken to study and learn.

New subject matter and ways of using subject matter are constantly being discovered. Time to study and learn these is needed. No wonder that extension services and personnel are interested in intensifying training for the job. The eagerness of institutions to provide summer schools for extension workers in 1946 is proof of the desire to meet the need for professional improvement.

These schools provide one place where high-quality training can be received in a short time. Extension workers were eager for these opportunities as evidenced by the attendance of more than 500 at the 9 schools held at Land-Grant Colleges in 1946. The student body at these 9 schools came from more than 25 States and Canada.

A variety of courses was offered, ranging from nine in one State down to one basic course in five States. These courses included Extension Education, Extension Research, Organization and Planning of Extension Work, Theory and Philosophy of Extension Work, Farm and Home Planning, Housing, Publicity, Public Problems, Sociology for Extension Workers, Public Speaking, Psychology for Extension Workers, Home Economics Workshop, New Developments in Farm Structures, World Politics, Farm and News Photography, Recent Developments in Animal Husbandry, and Advanced Soil Management.

### Instructors From Many Places

Instructors came from a variety of sources. The institution where the school was held furnished some. Nine members of the Federal staff taught in seven of the schools, and in three schools instructors came from other State extension services. All instructors report that the student bodies were of high caliber, were interested and conscientious.

The schools were usually 3 weeks long. One school, Missouri, ran two 4-week sessions. Most of the courses carried graduate credit. As an outgrowth of the interest shown by extension workers and the high quality of courses and work done, Mississippi and Colorado are planning programs leading toward a Master's degree in

Extension. At the present, only one State, Missouri, offers this opportunity.

The quality of the courses offered and of the work done was influenced to a large extent by the serious thought given to the planning of the courses and programs by instructors and steering committees. These committees usually were composed of college or university faculty members. In Florida, for example, one or more members of the planning committee attended every session of the class during the mornings. In the afternoons the planning committee members acted as advisers for work groups of students. This was intensive help from a college faculty which paid off. The students and faculty members alike benefited.

### Optional Activities Popular

Another interesting and appreciated feature, at Cornell, was the opportunity given students to participate in optional activities, such as visits to freezer lockers, experimental plots, laboratories, and seminars on special topics.

A distinct advance in the types of basic courses offered was the one in extension research at Colorado State College. The unexpected large enrollment in this course rather clearly reflected the growing interest among extension workers in methods of appraising extension effort as a basis for improving efficiency.

The reaction of students in general is quite well typified by the comment of one county home demonstration agent to her director: "I do want you to know how I enjoyed the course and that I wouldn't take anything for what I received. I only regret that I didn't have the course sooner. I hope that in the future all extension workers will have this course after a year's work."

What about 1947 and the future? The reaction of students, extension administrators and college faculties will throw some light on this question. This reaction seems to indicate the



need for one or two summer or short-time school situations to be developed and strengthened in each of the Federal Extension regions. These schools should be built at institutions with housing, faculty, and other resources to accommodate the needs of extension people. They should be continuing affairs to enable the institutions to develop the staff for management of the school, the quality of the faculty, and the necessary libraries and resources to make the school outstanding. To make these schools succeed, other extension services in the region could throw their support to the regional school. They could advertise the school, urge attendance at short-time schools, help develop the program and possibly furnish part of the faculty.

Summer schools, or similar short-term schools, held at other times of the year should be thought of as opportunities for any extension worker to get special courses designed for the immediate needs of extension. Certain basic courses in extension education should be provided at each school. These courses should be uniform in content wherever given. A

worker could then be assured that wherever he went to school the basic courses would be the same as if he had attended the regional school.

Certainly courses should be of the highest quality. The schools of the past have set high standards which should be maintained or improved. The schools should be at least 3 weeks long but be short enough to fit into the extension pattern of yearly operation.

With the tremendous importance of having a well-trained personnel, extension services should endeavor to get as many as practical of the staff to attend one of these schools each year. Time spent at these short-term schools should not be counted against the vacation time of the worker. It would be an investment of the service to improve its standard of work, not be solely a personal affair. Other measures may also need to be undertaken to make it possible for a staff member to attend. Whatever these are they should be done. Here is a practical opportunity for extension workers to get a needed lift, a new zest for the job, new information, new vision.

## Methods study makes debut

MRS. GWEN H. HAWS, Assistant Editor, College of Home Economics, Cornell University

■ First of a series of field studies to be conducted by its new Office of Extension Studies was recently undertaken by the New York State Extension Service. New York is the first of the Northeastern States and one of the first in the country to set up an office of extension studies.

The survey was made in Chemung County and was directed by Dorothy DeLany, head of the Office of Extension Studies in the College of Home Economics at Cornell. This office cooperated with the Federal Extension Service Division of Field Studies and Training headed by Dr. Gladys Gallup. Mrs. Laurel Sabrosky of that division assisted in making the survey.

The primary purpose of the study was to determine what the Home Bureau can do to serve more people, particularly farm women. Every farm woman in the county who now belongs to the Home Bureau was visited, plus a sampling of farm women who are nonmembers.

All homes visited were located in areas where Home Bureau units are functioning. Homes of members visited numbered 106, and homes of nonmembers, 104. They were located on all kinds of farms in 20 different communities.

A statistical analysis of the survey has not been completed, but it is already evident that the home demonstration agent and her executive committee will have many clues to help them achieve their objective—to reach more farm women.

According to Miss DeLany, the purpose of the survey was not only to determine why more farm women do not belong to the Home Bureau but also to give extension agents and other staff members experience as interviewers and some knowledge of the steps involved in designing and carrying through an extension study so that they can organize similar work in their own counties.

In accordance with the established

policy, extension workers from outside Chemung County visited the farm homes in the county and took records that will be used in the summary. Interviewers included seven home demonstration extension agents, as well as specialists and members of the State administrative staff. A training school was held preceding the survey, and many persons not actually participating in the field work of the survey took part in the training school because of their interest in extension evaluation.

Mrs. Charlotte Runey, Chemung County home demonstration agent, was in charge of local arrangements. All of the Chemung extension agents participated generously in the planning for the survey by helping with the location of the farm homes on the master map, the preparation of maps for the interviewers, and in helping to identify the farm homes that were selected at random.

Decision to start with a Home Bureau survey was made by a policy committee on extension studies headed by Dr. R. A. Polson, rural sociologist. Acting as consultants in the Home Bureau was a subcommittee including the State leader of home demonstration agents, Frances A. Scudder.

The members of the policy committee are now engaged in outlining a 2-year plan of extension studies for New York State. These studies will be in three areas: (1) extension workers investigating their own jobs; (2) surveys like the one just completed in Chemung County, directed by extension studies personnel; and (3) research that an extension worker can do as graduate study for an advanced degree.

The extension studies program in New York State is soundly backed by Extension Director L. R. Simons who says: "From the beginning, extension work has been built upon sound research in agriculture and home economics. Research is needed, however, not only to guide extension workers in the subject matter they teach and the practices they promote but also to guide them in their methods of work, in program determination, in evaluation of their efforts.

"The purpose of such research is to improve the effectiveness of the Extension Service."



# South Dakota gets power sprayers from surplus Army supplies

These experiences from South Dakota could be duplicated in a number of States. Kansas was one of the first to get the sprayers, and Wyoming and Oklahoma got theirs soon after. A report from New Mexico just as we go to press says there are 3 on hand and 32 more in the offing capable of spraying 300 to 400 cows an hour. Other States are in the negotiating stage.

■ An intensified South Dakota extension program to demonstrate weed control and livestock parasite control received a big boost with the acquisition of 60 power spraying machines obtained as surplus property from the Chemical Warfare Service.

Behind the sprayers is some history on such places as Saipan. Their future as demonstrators of better agriculture will be due to some hard work on the part of Director George L. Gilbertson, District Supervisor Joseph L. Hill, and other members of the extension staff.

The sprayers were used for various spraying jobs including fire control and held in reserve against possible gas warfare during the war. The machines were located with the aid of Senator Chan Gurney after they became eligible as donable surplus army property, and representatives of the Extension Service were sent to inspect and accept them.

Truck-mounted models were driven back to the campus from points as far away as San Antonio, Tex., in the South; Marysville, Calif., in the West; and Harrisburg, Pa., in the East. On the California trip, a cavalcade of 14 trucks and 5 trailers driven by 15 State staff members and county agents made the 1,800-mile trip to Brookings.

## Thirty Went to Counties

Thirty machines have been distributed to counties in the State, and an additional 30 sprayers will provide remaining extension counties with a power sprayer for demonstration teaching and experimental work.

The 60 machines include 21 truck-mounted sprayers, 19 power-driven decontaminators mounted on trailers, and 20 skid-mounted machines. The

machines are a 400-gallon commercial orchard spray type changed to meet army needs. Part of the truck mounts are power take-off driven, and others have the motor mounted on them. They are capable of pressures up to 800 to 1,000 pounds maximum. They can be equipped with a variety of nozzles to adapt them to a number of uses.

Until all models can be mounted on trailers or trucks to make them mobile, the truck-mounted models are being distributed among the larger key counties in the State. In this distribution the trucks were numbered, and agents drew numbers out of a hat for their particular truck.

Although the machines were donable property, the project was not

carried out without cost. Freight charges, expenses in transporting drivers, and at some bases a charge of 3 percent of the cost of the machines for handling added into a sizable bill.

Livestock men in the State have displayed a great deal of interest in power spraying equipment for using DDT for fly and lice control and using rotenone sprays for grub control. The grub-control spraying requires 500 to 600 pounds pressure—impossible with an ordinary sprayer.

The South Dakota Extension Service recently published a bulletin on spraying cattle insects, including information on power spraying. The new leaflet seems destined to be a best seller—with a large percentage of the county agents requesting double or more of the quota allotted to them.

South Dakota's last legislature passed a weed law which designated the Extension Service as the educational agent. Preliminary trials by the South Dakota Experiment Station with 2, 4-D, and other weed killers have given promising results. Weed boards set up in each county under the new law are eager to do some experimental work and demonstrating. The sprayers should prove excellent demonstrators for weed control and eradication.

District Supervisor Clarence Shanley, Director George I. Gilbertson, and District Supervisor Joe Hill pose with a caravan of the trucks on the South Dakota State College campus after completion of a 1,800-mile trek from California. Mr. Hill made the trip with 15 county agents and State staff members.





The sprayers can perform an additional service which can be of great value in South Dakota's rural areas with their large, scattered farms and ranches. Equipped with special nozzles they can be used as auxiliary fire-fighting equipment.

Extension workers make no claims that one sprayer will serve a county. But until growers, ranchers, and farmers can obtain such equipment themselves, extension workers can carry on their primary purpose—education—using the spray machines as demonstrators and as experimental units.

## Agent's broadcast features GI brides

■ The comedian's favorite joke about a new bride's cooking was proved wrong by Mildred Thomas (left), home demonstration agent for Worcester County, Mass. This summer Miss Thomas' regular program on WTAG presented several GI brides to Worcester County homemakers. In the broadcasts Miss Thomas interviewed the brides about habits and customs of their countries and passed along information about what they might expect in New England.

Seven brides took part in this series covering many phases of family life. Home canning, budgets, meal planning, decoration, and food were among the topics discussed by Miss

■ California's fourth annual San Fernando Valley 4-H Club fair held at Horton's Barn, Encino, August 24 and 25, 1946, was the most educational, colorful, and all-round successful of the series, according to both D. L. Liddle, assistant county agricultural agent in Los Angeles County, and Mrs. Evelyn Saunders, assistant home demonstration agent, in charge of 4-H organization in the county. There were 1,100 entries, club exhibits, and demonstrations, with more than 2,000 people attending.

The 4-H'ers planned and ran the fair, assisted by a leaders' committee.

Thomas and her guests. In her program she urged local women to be friends to the GI brides and help them become better acquainted with American customs. Following the series the radio station entertained the brides at a special coffee party.

Left to right in the picture are: Miss Thomas; Mrs. Rita Morse, from London, England; Mrs. Marie Duffy, from Auckland, New Zealand; Mrs. Madeline Savage, from Paris, France; Mrs. Janet Steeves, from Dumfries, Scotland; Mrs. Joan Burnett, from Sleaford, Lincolnshire, England; Mrs. Sabina Greene, from County Galway, Ireland; and Mrs. Valerie Jewell, from St. Arnaud, Victoria, Australia.



## Pioneer kitchen exhibited

A feature of the Davis County (Iowa) Fair and also of the Iowa Centennial State Fair was a pioneer kitchen exhibit prepared by rural homemakers in Davis County. The log cabin structure displayed articles used in homemaking 100 years ago.

This was an outgrowth of the work in kitchen planning done during the year. Because of their interest in kitchens the women decided to develop the kitchen centennial idea. The exhibit was remarkable for its finished detail and for the number of people in the county who contributed some old article or some facts about kitchens of 100 years ago. This part of the State was one of the first settled, and the many old-timers and their descendants took a personal interest in making an accurate and complete exhibit. The common interest created and the teamwork developed by the exhibit committee contributed a great deal to community interest all the time the exhibit was in preparation.

When the kitchen first made its appearance at the county fair it was a center of fun in the sharing of old-time experiences. At the State Fair, the pioneer kitchen was shown in contrast to the modern streamlined kitchen exhibited by Mahaska County and the supplementary utility room exhibited by Washington County.

## Raising their sights

World affairs are taking an important part in the home demonstration programs planned by Illinois women for the coming year. Many counties are continuing their studies of foreign countries with enigmatic Russia far in the lead. China comes in for her share of discussion, with Australia, South American countries, and islands of the Pacific runners-up for a place on the program. Other groups have followed closely the Paris Peace Conference and the meetings of the United Nations. These studies are planned and carried out by the women themselves, who make full use of local authorities, school libraries, and any pamphlets, bulletins, and books they can get.



# Flashes FROM SCIENCE FRONTIERS

A few hints of what's in the offing as a result of scientific research in the U. S. Department of Agriculture that may be of interest to extension workers, as seen by Marion Julia Drown, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

## New Oat Varieties Counteract Threat of New Disease

A new fungus disease is threatening oat crops in the area from New York and Pennsylvania to Montana and Texas. Losses of some high-yielding varieties of oats, especially on moist and fertile land, have averaged about 10 percent and have gone as high as 50 percent. Fortunately, the newly developed varieties, Clinton, Benton, Bonda, Mindo, and Eaton, as well as Marion which has been grown in the area for several years, are resistant to the new disease.

The fungus *Helminthosporium* has been established as the cause of the newly discovered blight or footrot of oats by Dr. H. C. Murphy, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, and Frances Meehan, of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station. These investigators call the disease H 96. It is carried over from year to year on the seed and in the soil.

Only a limited supply of the seed of the new resistant varieties is available for 1947 planting, but Marion produced a large amount of seed from a good 1946 crop in the Middle West. Department and State agronomists are advising farmers whose oats were damaged by H 96 last summer to use Marion next year unless they can get seed of the other resistant varieties. If susceptible varieties must be planted, treating the seed with New Improved Ceresan will reduce the injury to the crop from H 96.

## Frozen-Food Lockers on the Increase

"By leaps and bounds" describes the rate at which the number of frozen-food lockers in the United States has been increasing. Annual surveys for the past 8 years showed an increase each year. The total in

July 1946 was 8,025 plants, 1,561 more than were reported the previous July. K. F. Warner, extension meat specialist, compiled the data.

The 8,025 plants contain about 3 1/4 million individual lockers, in which almost 1 1/4 billion pounds of food can be stored. About three-fourths of the 2,500 families using frozen-food lockers are farmers. The States having the most locker plants are Iowa, Minnesota, Washington, Wisconsin, Illinois, California, and Texas. Additional plants are under construction in practically all States.

## A New, Improved "Basic Seven"

Something new has been added to the familiar Basic Seven wheel. The latest edition, shown here, carries recommendations for the minimum amounts of the seven food groups for daily consumption.

A new folder, called National Food Guide (AIS-53), explaining the Basic Seven and listing the foods in each group, and a revised colored wall



chart of the wheel with its seven segments are available free from the Office of Information, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

## FAO Groups Shown Danish Experimental Farms

Red Danish cattle and Danish Landrace pigs were seen in their native environment by interested groups attending the Food and Agricultural Organization Conference at Copenhagen September 2-13, 1946. Animals of both these breeds have been imported into the United States from Denmark for breeding experiments by the Department of Agriculture and cooperating States.

Within 30 miles of Copenhagen, Denmark maintains two State experimental farms. Animal husbandry research at these farms is credited with having been an important factor in the maintenance of food production in Denmark during and after the war.

The two farms, called Trollesminde and Favrholt, are only a mile or so apart. Their combined area is 1,356 acres. At Favrholt, 147 Red Danish cows gave an average yield of 7,938 pounds of milk in 1944-45. Butterfat content was 4.03 percent. The herd at Trollesminde consists of several breeds, including Red Danish, Jutland, and Shorthorn. Their milk and butterfat production was slightly lower than that of the Red Danish at Favrholt. All the cattle have passed tests for tuberculosis.

At Trollesminde, besides cattle, swine, and horses, rabbits and poultry are kept in modern, sanitary quarters. In the fields of both farms, wheat, rye, barley, oats, potatoes, beets, and pasture grass are grown.

## What To Do With Old Hats

Cheating the rag bag of old hats, furs, and leather articles is the mission of "Make-Overs from Leather, Fur, and Felt," Miscellaneous Publication 614, from the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. This booklet tells, in text and pictures, how such articles can be made into house slippers, caps, gloves, bags, and other useful things. Free from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.



# Do you know

**STANFORD H. LEE**, Negro county agricultural agent for Bibb and Twiggs Counties, Ga., who has won the respect of Georgia folks both black and white? This story was written by Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, president, Georgia State Industrial College, Savannah, Ga., and printed in the Savannah Morning News of September 1 and reprinted in the Macon Telegraph of September 26.

■ Stanford Lee has pioneered in service to the colored people on the farms of Georgia. More than 25 years ago, Lee was busy encouraging and aiding colored people to build for themselves better rural schools and homes. The Georgia Teachers and Educational Association, in cooperation with the Julius Rosenwald Fund, employed Lee for several years to give full time to the job of acquainting colored people in Georgia with the best methods and plans for improving their community school facilities. Lee went into every nook and corner of the State teaching and inspiring folks not only how to build school-houses but how to make life for themselves wholesome, worthwhile, and satisfying.

The influence of Lee's efforts can still be seen in farm communities in every section of Georgia. It was a tiresome and oftentimes thankless job, going into communities and selling them on the job of doing what they could for themselves, but Lee

never faltered. What he did then makes Georgia a better place to live today.

Nearly a quarter of a century ago, when Federal and State funds allocated to the service of colored farm people were at a minimum and when trained workers were few, Lee came into the farm demonstration service. He is a graduate of Tuskegee Institute. Working in Monroe, Bibb, and Twiggs Counties, he began to educate black folks in how to improve their farms and homes. He also succeeded in teaching them to respect and love their homes. In more recent years he moved his headquarters to the Federal Building in Macon, where he is in a position to reach out and be of larger service to the rural folks in all central Georgia.

There has been no movement of vital interest to colored people in Macon and the whole of central Georgia in the past 25 years that has not found S. H. Lee not only identified with it but in the center of it, guiding a most

potent and wholesome influence with all of the people, both urban and rural, black and white. In the church, in local and district meetings of teachers and farmers, Lee has carried high the banner of a common-sense and Christian approach to the problems that lie before us. His influence has not stopped with the folks "behind the hills." He has carried to the other men and women agents and to leaders in other walks of life his spirit of optimism. Lee has always been ready with a pointed joke, a talk, or a song that brings harmony where confusion and misunderstanding are evident. It is his spirit that encourages folks to accept his counsel and advice. Lee is himself one of Georgia's finest possible demonstrations of what a man can do for himself and his fellow men.

S. H. Lee, in his own way, has done much to cause white and black folks to "get along together." He has been the voice of patience, peace, and good will. He has constantly counseled decent living, politeness, and intelligent thoughtfulness. There would be little justifiable racial tension in the world today if there were more men in every community with the common sense and the all-embracing love that has been exhibited by S. H. Lee. My hat is off to Lee, who has little of this world's material goods but is rich in the fine uplifting and helpful contacts he has made through the years with Georgia people, white and black.

## He touches the lives of many people

■ "Cooperative marketing that gets right down to the very small growers is what I saw being done in Charleston County, S. C., by the Negro agricultural agent, Julius Amaker," reports J. M. Eleazer, South Carolina extension information specialist, in his column, "Seen Along the Roadside."

On a recent visit he found Amaker very busy marketing potatoes with his people on the islands. Last winter Amaker organized his small Negro farmers into 15 groups, obtained 2,750 bags of certified seed potatoes cooperatively for them, followed right on through with fertilizers, helped pick the land, and when Mr. Eleazer was there he was assembling the potatoes in truckloads for market.

He had them bring the day's digging to an appointed spot—usually some central crossroads or country store. Amaker had the buyer with truck there at the appointed hour. They brought their potatoes graded and packed in new sacks that he got for them cooperatively, too. All manner of conveyances brought them—trucks, wagons, oxcarts, and sleds. Often it was 11 p. m. before they finished. For Amaker had been taught by the extension marketing specialists how to grade potatoes, and so had the farmers at field meetings. Every lot had to come up to standard or be taken back for regrading. Loading trucks with quality potatoes built satisfactory marketing connections.

"Everybody has a jolly good time at these loadings," said Amaker, and he showed the total of their sales to mid-season. It ran into five figures.

This is just one phase of his work there, for Amaker is touching the lives of his people at many places.

ONE OF THE FIRST CIRCULARS on international relations for home demonstration workers is "Our Part in World Peace" written by Gertrude Humphreys, State home demonstration leader in West Virginia, for use in home demonstration clubs there. It is another of the Good Living Series which has been coming out regularly for 13 years.

## Negro 4-H Council meets

The Palmetto State 4-H Council of Negro clubs held their annual meeting in Orangeburg, S. C., August 5-8 in connection with the 4-H Conservation Camp and Farm and Home Institute. The program included demonstrations on "How to take in a new member" by the Chester County Council and "Method of setting the table" by the Florence County Council. The work of the county council came in for discussion by the earnest young folks.

South Carolina has four district 4-H councils and a county council in every county with a Negro agent.—*Johnnie Mae McCants, submitted by D. G. Belton, Jr., Negro agricultural agent, Winnsboro, S. C.*

## Texans take to air

County Agricultural Agent Houston E. Smith reports that 15 landing strips have been built in Presidio County, Tex., and that 3 more ranchers bought planes during September. Of the 800 miles of road in Presidio County, only 142 miles are hard-surface all-weather highways, so many of the ranchmen are "turning miles into minutes" with air transportation.

As an example of the time and cost saved by airplanes in that area, Smith states the case of the Decker Brothers who operate a sheep and goat ranch in a "rough, remote part of the county." Their headquarters are 86 miles from Marfa on a rough, often impassable road. Even under normal conditions, County Agent Smith says, the trip to town by truck or car takes 6 hours and costs \$14. Last month Monroe Decker received his pilot's license, bought an airplane, and now makes the trip to Marfa in 22 minutes at a cost of \$3. Mr. Decker also figures that he can get to El Paso in 4 hours, a trip that used to take 2 days by car. Some of the materials that the brothers have flown in to the ranch are windmill and pipe line parts, groceries, vaccine, and enough drench to treat 5,000 sheep last month.

As many of the ranches in Presidio County have no telephone service, the planes also have proved valuable in cases of sickness, says Smith. Three

persons in need of medical attention have been flown to Marfa from the Decker ranch this year. The county agent sees air transportation as a future "must" on west Texas ranches.

## Connecticut square dance

The song and dance festival which closed the Connecticut Farm and Home Week on the evening of August 2, brought out 1,000 dancers and 3,000 spectators. Four prompters took turns in calling the figures for the 125 sets dancing under floodlights on the University athletic field. Included were 75 grange groups and 20 youth groups.

One feature of the evening was the "Dance of the Fireflies" presented by four 4-H Club boys under the direction of County Club Agent James Laidlaw of Tolland County. Carrying a flaming torch in each hand the boys swung them in Indian club style, making a colorful effect against the black sky.

First held in 1938 to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the State Extension Service, the 1946 festival was the fourth to be a part of the Farm and Home Week program. None was staged during the war. The festival has steadily increased the popularity of square dancing in Connecticut.

## Farmstead models

Brown County, S. Dak., farmers have been having fun and learning about farm building arrangement at the same time with a set of models built by County Agent Ben Schaub. Ben has these models set up in his office where visitors may play with them. He moves the buildings about to illustrate his discussions of building-arrangement problems. The models help illustrate discussions about building location, livestock management for convenience, landscaping, poultry yard rotation, windbreaks, and numerous other items.

He carries the set along to county meetings for demonstrations. The buildings are easily removed from the panel they rest on, and the panel can be folded in the middle to be carried in a car. On the reverse side is an alternate farmstead lay-out to show an arrangement for a different type of farming.

## 1,800 mittens for Europe

Each of 1,000 snow suits and 800 capes made for European relief by the Kalamazoo, Mich., chapter of the American Red Cross was accompanied by a pair of mittens, thanks to Mrs. Fred W. Sellers of Brook Farm home economics extension group.

Mrs. Sellers is an employee of the commercial firm that cut the entire quota of several hundred snow suits. She is also an interested worker in various home economics extension projects sponsored by Michigan State College.

Mrs. Sellers had enjoyed the lesson on the making of accessories, including mittens; and it gave her an idea for using the small pieces of tweed left from the cutting of the snow suits. She took some scraps home, used her extension pattern and directions to work out three sizes of children's patterns. Then she made up a pair of mittens as a demonstration.

It proved to be a huge success, and the mitten project was launched. Eighteen hundred pairs of mittens resulted.

## Dutch girl adopted by Arkansas club

A little girl who lives in Holland has been adopted for the year by the Avoca Home Demonstration Club in Benton County, Ark. She will continue to live in her own country though the club women will pay for her care and schooling which will amount to \$150 for the year. So as soon as the plans were made the members busied themselves earning money. They have been sponsoring community activities to raise money. A box supper brought \$27. Then they had an auction with everything, including one pair of nylon hose, being donated. This brought \$12 into the fund. The next plans are for a white elephant sale.

The women are very much interested in the child, and all are looking forward to the correspondence with her. Several members are planning to make and send her wearing apparel. Mrs. Cecil Wood wants to crochet a Dutch bonnet and apron for her. Home Demonstration Agent Mabel King feels that these women are doing a great thing toward rehabilitation of Europe.



# Wyoming contest winners

■ Winners in the Wyoming farm tree planting and home improvement contest for last year were recently announced and indicated considerable progress, reports W. O. Edmondson, extension horticulturist in Wyoming. The first prize winner in home improvement and landscaping went to a rancher who had planted trees and shrubs around his home, terraced the land, built an outdoor fireplace, and fenced his yard. Winner in the irrigated land plantings had planted 350 trees of 6 varieties in a 4-row shelter-belt. The dry land winner had planted 600 trees in 4 rows. Eight ranchers received honorable mention for good progress in planting and

landscaping and the use of dependable varieties of trees, shrubs, and plants.

W. C. Deming, Cheyenne, sponsors this contest because of his deep desire to improve living conditions on farms and ranches through home improvement and landscaping, land leveling, and home and service-building remodeling. Particularly noticeable are the giant strides being made as a result of increased use of rural electrification and power in which electrical equipment provides water pressure and other conveniences.

Entries for 1947 are now being made for plantings and improvements during this year.

## Keeping the records straight

■ Tim Kaufman, a National 4-H Soil Conservation contest winner and president of the Sunrise 4-H Club of Delmont, S. Dak., gets some help on the records from his county agent, Robert Pinnow.

Among other things, Tim laid out lines and contoured 8 acres of corn and 25 acres of oats; strip-cropped another 25-acre field; plowed contour furrows in half of a 30-acre pasture, and instituted deferred grazing on

another 20-acre pasture. He also helped haul 40 loads of manure and used the duckfoot on all stubble except 16 acres of volunteer rye, which will be used as a green manure crop next spring. "These practices," Tim reported, "resulted in bumper grain and corn crops as contributions to the war effort. By continuing and increasing my efforts, I hope to build up and conserve our soil for many future years."

■ The Brough 4-H Club in Arkansas County, Ark., recently gave a demonstration to 30 veterans on how to make tests for soil acidity and phosphate. Then, after the demonstration, they assisted the onlookers in making tests for the need of limestone and phosphate in the soil. Twenty-four tests were made, and the results came from E. W. Loudermilk, county agent. Whereas some soil needed no limestone, other soil required up to 4 tons per acre to correct acidity for growing various legumes. And the phosphate needs ranged from none to 300 pounds per acre. These boys are proving that soil testing pays.

■ Rural youth, more than 60 of them from 3 Pennsylvania counties, Perry, Cumberland, and Franklin, climbed into busses and cars early one Saturday morning in August to visit the U. S. Department of Agriculture Research Center at Beltsville, Md. They covered a part of the 12,000 acres, looked over some of the animal husbandry and crop experiments, talked with Dr. Earl C. McCracken about the newer models of freezing units, and made good use of their time. Accompanying the group were Home Demonstration Agents Ethyl M. Rathbun, of Perry County, and Dorothy Boring, of Cumberland County, also Doris High, assistant home demonstration agent in Perry County, and County Agent L. F. Rothrock, of Perry County.



## Farm fire prevention

■ When a prolonged humid season caused an unparalleled number of hot haymows, County Agent Floyd Bucher of Lancaster County, Pa., began to check for fire hazards. In cases where danger of fire was imminent, proper measures were prescribed for either removing or minimizing the hazard. Through this service, at least a score of barns were saved from fire. In addition, the members of several rural fire companies were instructed in methods of checking the possibility of barn fires in their bailiwicks; and they, too, did checking on local barns. In this case an ounce of prevention proved its worth.

# Among Ourselves

## ■ FOUR TEXAS COUNTY AGENTS

who have seen Extension Service develop from its earliest days recently retired. George Banzhaf, with 38 years of service in Milam County; Arthur James Cotton, of Burnet County; and David F. Eaton of Foard, proud of their 32 years of extension; and C. W. Lehmberg who rounded out 27 years as county agent in Brown County are among the Nation's most distinguished veterans in extension work. They richly deserve the many congratulations and good wishes for health and happiness which have come to them on the occasion of their leaving active extension work.

Agent Banzhaf was a native of Williamsport, Pa., becoming agent in Milam County in February 1908. He also served in Lee County from 1909 to 1911. Agent Cotton was born in Mexia, Tex., and became agent in Burnet County in December 1911. He served in Tom Green County, Llano County, Lampasas County, and in 1938 went back to Burnet County, as county agent emeritus. Agent Eaton received his first Extension Service appointment in August 1914 when he became Comanche County agent. He has served in Runnels County, Lubbock County, Shackelford County, Wise County, and finally Foard County. Agent Lehmberg attended Texas A. & M. College and began his county agent work in December 1917 in Wilson County. He also served as agent in Runnels County, 1924-1933.

## ■ FLOYD S. BUCHER, the "Flying

Dutchman" of Lancaster County, Pa., and one of the best known county agents in the United States, appeared again in print in the September 12 issue of the Philadelphia Record, together with a good picture of Agent Bucher on his motorcycle. As agent in the same county for 34 years, Floyd Bucher figures he has traveled more than a million miles on official duty. "I tried trolley cars, horses, and bicycles a few months the first year," says this county agent. "Then I straddled a motorcycle for what looks like a

life sentence. Anyhow I like to feel the wind against my face."

The article was written by Edwin Kemp, the farm editor of the Record, who gave Floyd Bucher credit for much of the improvement in Lancaster agriculture. He wrote: "\* \* \* it is doubtful whether any man in Lancaster County is more responsible than 'Dutch' Bucher for the strides his area has made in becoming one of the three top counties in America in tobacco production."

## ■ ELLWOOD H. FULTON, county agent in Washington County, Pa.,

for more than 25 years, was fatally wounded by the accidental discharge of a shotgun, September 23. The two local newspapers paid tribute to Mr. Fulton. The Washington Reporter said in an editorial: "In his working relationship with the farmers of the county and his colleagues in this community he always commanded a high measure of respect, not only because of his ability and goodness of heart, but also because his advice was good and because he stood as a man before and with men."

The Washington Observer, also in an editorial, wrote: "Assuming his duties as an extension agent here immediately after his graduation at

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Pennsylvania State College, Mr. Fulton had become one of Washington County's best-known citizens, a dependable and established personality who could always be counted upon to do his best willingly. Ellwood Fulton will be missed in the many circles in which he moved quietly, sincerely, and with able but unpretentious effort for so long a period."

Could an agent ask for any better commentary on his service to his county?

## ■ FLORA FERRILL, well-known

home demonstration agent in Pulaski County, Ark., is taking her experience and skill in home demonstration work to the rural women of Syria, who are badly in need of just the help she can give in improving their homes. She sailed late last summer and will have her headquarters in the familiar Biblical city of Damascus. We shall hope to get a report of Miss Ferrill's work in new fields when she gets established.

■ Four Wyoming women were especially honored for the leadership they have shown in their own home demonstration clubs at a banquet given at the Annual State Leadership Short Course held in Laramie, June 11. These were the first winners of the Susan J. Quealy award giving them all expenses at the short course, a sterling silver lapel pin, and a certificate. One copy of the certificate is given to the woman herself; one is filed with the State historian, and one placed in the University of Wyoming archives.

In setting up these awards which will be given for 5 years, Mrs. Quealy said: "Women in small towns and rural areas are constantly and willingly contributing their time and effort to betterment of homes and educational, health, recreational, and library facilities through their own endeavors and extension programs; and because communities are made richer by their contributions, I am grateful to them and proud to have a part in honoring them as leaders."